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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/694,100	10/27/2003	Kelvin B. Bradley	Bradley 4-11-830 (241501-	3105
24504	7590	12/28/2005	EXAMINER NGUYEN, KHIEM M	
THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, LLP 100 GALLERIA PARKWAY, NW STE 1750 ATLANTA, GA 30339-5948			ART UNIT 2839	

DATE MAILED: 12/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/694,100	BRADLEY ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Khiem Nguyen	2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15-36 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 15-31 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 32-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. Claims 32-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Essert (5,440,657) in view of Japan' 742.

Essert discloses an optical fiber connector and an inherent method for coupling a first optical fiber 36 to a second optical fiber 38 via a connector. The connector comprising: a bottom portion 30 having a groove 26; a top portion 28; and a first wedge 64 and a second wedge 66 that are configured to fit at least partially between the top portion and the bottom portion while the top portion is attached to the bottom portion; wherein the first and second wedges are configured to press the first and second optical fibers into the groove. Essert's first and second wedges lack the following function as being recited in the claims: the first wedge is activated by being slid toward the second wedge; and wherein the second wedge is configured to press a second optical fiber into the groove when the second wedge is activated by being slid toward the first wedge.

Japan' 742 discloses an optical fiber connector 32 provided with a slidable wedge 44 for fixing an optical fiber 20 to the connector when the wedge is being slid forward (see figure 1C).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to construct or provide the Essert's optical connector with a slidable first and second wedge in which: the first wedge is activated by being slid toward the second wedge; and wherein the second wedge is configured to press a second optical fiber into the groove when the second

wedge is activated by being slid toward the first wedge in view of the teachings of Japan' 742. This would provide for a removable connector, which allows the optical fiber to be repair or replace more easily.

Regarding the limitations of wherein the first and second wedge each include a head portion and a body portion and the body portion has a sloping wedge surface and a bottom wedge surface are clearly shown by sloping wedge surface 42 of Japan' 742.

Regarding the use of larger v-groove for supporting the buffered portions of the optical fiber is well known. Essert and Japan' 742 also disclose larger grooves (32b, 34b) and 40, respectively, for supporting the buffered portions of their optical fibers.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 15-31 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 10/13/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Regarding applicant's argument on page of the Remarks that "Claims 32 through 36, directed to the method of coupling optical fibers, are clearly not anticipated by Essert, see, for example, Essert's method as set forth in columns 6, lines 17-57 and are hence believed to be allowable". However, it is submitted that claims 32-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 on a combination of Essert in view of Japan' 742 (see previous office action and above).

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khiem Nguyen whose telephone number is 571 272-2096. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on 571 272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2839

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Khiem Nguyen
Khiem Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839